



EQUINE LAND CONSERVATION RESOURCE

A Fearsome Force

Nancy Hamill Winter's conservation history goes back to the early '70s, so it's not surprising to hear how it all started. "If the truth be known, my effort in land protection began as an ecoterrorist," she told fellow conservationists at Rally 2013. "As the bulldozers moved westward out of Chicago toward my beloved Fox River Valley where I grew up, my young friends and I would gallop on our horses and rip out the surveyors' stakes as quickly as we could find them. I sat in front of bulldozers with my two babies* while I dug spring ephemerals out of magnificent oak savannahs before they were destroyed. Those endeavors were fruitless, but, fortunately, as my life evolved I became associated with several conservation organizations, which enabled me to release my energy toward land conservation."

Nancy accepted the Land Trust Alliance's National Conservation Service Award at Rally in New Orleans.

An accomplished equestrian and certified naturalist, Nancy has significantly advanced natural area preservation, management and restoration in Illinois by serving on the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation board for 18 years. She is past president of the Illinois Chapter of The Nature Conservancy and has helped to establish the Prairie State Conservation Coalition. Nancy also helped develop the Equine Land Conservation Resource, which works with landowners around the country to protect rural lands and preserve access for horseback riding.

Saying that "protection of our natural resources is not just something that she advocates but something that she lives," Alliance Chair Michael Dowling described how Nancy and her family recently partnered with the Teton Regional Land Trust to conserve family lands near Grant Teton and Yellowstone National Parks.

Nancy claimed the award on behalf of all of the volunteer leaders in the conservation movement. "Together, we volunteer leaders are a fearsome force; we stick together and I'm just proud to be recognized as one of you." 🍀

To nominate someone for a 2014 award please visit www.lta.org/awards.

*One of whom, Ethan Winter, grew up to be a conservationist. Ethan is New York conservation manager for the Land Trust Alliance, which he joined in 2005.